

To the members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

S.B. 176 is a good beginning with an excellent timeline; however, it needs a couple changes. The cap on commercial solar needs to be raised from 50 to 100 megawatts, and the cap on Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) should be raised from 25 to 50 megawatts. This will encourage development of commercial solar and help CT achieve its goals of addressing climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, and have a zero-carbon grid within 20 years. We have to raise the question: Why should there even be any cap at all? Ideally, there should be no cap. Please consider that.

For fifteen years we've been advocates of renewable, affordable clean energy in our state. We've been active proponents of solar development and shared solar ("community solar") projects, having given testimony in person and by letter. You may remember the organization we started in 2006, Fight the Hike, that helped develop some of your committee's later legislation. The climate change crisis we are in makes it all the more imperative that large effective steps happen fast. We have to reduce greenhouse gas, not just because the state mandated it, but because survival on the planet demands it.

Thank you for taking our words into consideration. We urge you to raise the caps, if not eliminate them entirely, so our state can work towards mitigating the effects of climate change and create a cleaner, safer environment for Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Paula Panzarella
Frank Panzarella

Members of the New Haven Energy Task Force